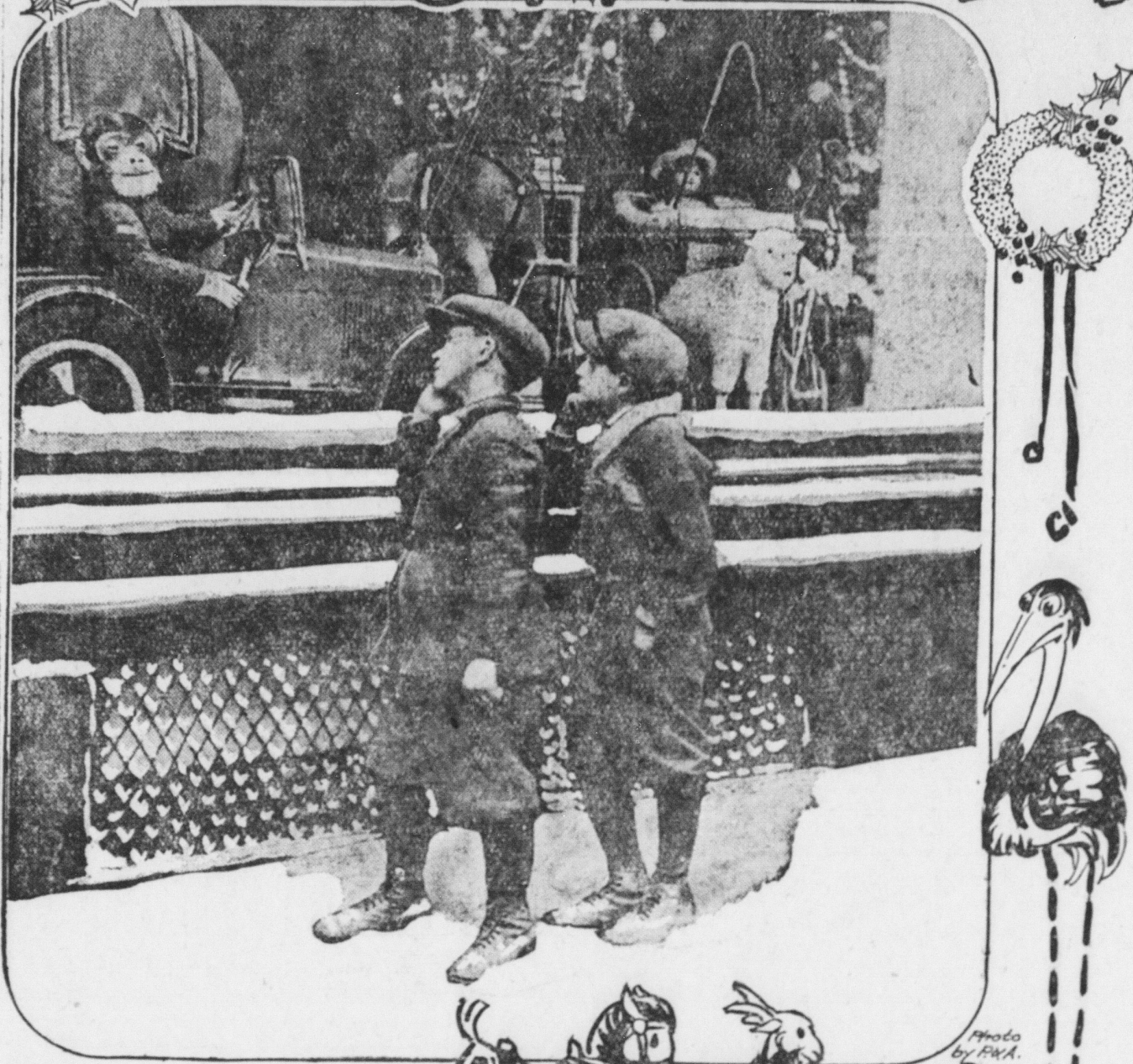


About Gift Giving



WITH the world absorbed just now in the process of making and buying gifts for Christmas, how many of us stop to think what it is all about? So simply and naturally has gift-making slipped into our scheme of things that we scarcely recognize it as a thing in itself.

Gift-making has a history as old as time, and there are many occasions on which we deem it fit and proper, nay, even obligatory, to give and exchange gifts. Nearly every one exchanges gifts at Christmas time, and this year we expect to see the custom observed to its fullest possibilities.

Glancing over the ages, we find that gift-making has always existed in some form or other. Our savage ancestors were great hands at the game. But gift-giving in primitive man did not spring from any thought or idea connected with generosity. His was not the simple desire to please. Being selfish and unutterably superstitious, he feared and distrusted strangers, just as some of us do today. He scorned the weak and cringed before the strong. The conditions of life forced him to these reactions.

Whatever impulses primitive man may have had to share his possessions or to make a gift of something which he really preferred to keep for himself, grew out of fear. From what we know about the nature of our earliest ancestors we cannot believe that he would have parted with anything he wanted unless he was afraid. When the lightning flashed and the thunder roared, an overwhelming fear possessed him. Unable to reason that these were natural elements over which he could not possibly exercise control, he shot at the storm with arrows and shouted at the thunder. When these efforts failed, his fear increased. What had he done to anger the gods? Perhaps a gift would appease this anger. To him the giving of a treasured possession meant real sacrifice. For instance, if he made a bonfire and burned some of his hard-earned food, he expected the gods to appreciate his sacrifice and turn off the thunder.

The Egyptians made great gifts to their kings. The Israelites gave a tenth of all their grain, their wine, their cattle to the king. This custom spread everywhere, and even Christianity failed to wipe it out. Ambassadors, visiting foreign countries, brought gifts. We are told that Queen Elizabeth received thousands of gifts from her subjects at New Year's.

There remains little doubt that, what other purposes may have induced the making of a gift, there lurked behind it an unconscious desire to win the friendship of the person of power to gain one's own ends— even as the weak man of the primitive tribe made a gift to the tribal

strong man in the desire to gain his friendship and protection.

The Bible gives expression to this thought. Says Deuteronomy 16:19: "A gift doth blind the eyes of the wise." Meaning, of course, that it is easy to obtain what one wants if one distributes gifts judiciously.

Among many peoples, the making of a gift became a sort of ceremony. A gift meant much more to primitive man than it does to us. When he brought himself to part with a choice bearskin or a sharp flint spear, he felt that he was parting with something akin to himself. Thus the exchange of gifts came to be a common way of formally binding two persons together. When the Dasuns of North Borneo exchanged weapons they were sworn friends. In central Celebes, even today, the exchange of gifts is recognized as a ceremony for establishing friendship. In Patagonia, no chief is allowed to enter into the territory of another until gifts have been exchanged.

The exchange of gifts at Christmas time possibly grew out of the desire to emulate the amazing unselfishness of Christ. The custom was nurtured in Germany. Here it became the habit to make periodic exchange of gifts among friends, relatives, acquaintances. It became an obligation, and to escape it the man with many friends sometimes took an extended trip at this period.

From Germany, the custom of Christmas gift giving spread over Europe. It crossed the sea and was brought to the struggling colonists who had cut loose from all Old World influences. It has become more and more an institution, as the generations have slipped by, and today we exchange gifts as a matter of course.

It was a custom among the Romans for the priest to put a box on all outgoing ships. The people were required to put something into it. When the ship was ready to sail, the box was sealed and went to sea with it. On the return the box was turned over to the priest who placed it aside until Christmas, at which time mass was said and the box opened. Sometimes the contents were kept by the church; sometimes distributed to the poor. It is related that frequently at the opening of this box those who had not placed anything in it came forward and offered gifts in the form of money or jewelry.

During the early period of Christianity it was customary for poor men and women to sing carols in the streets at Christmas time. They would be given food, clothing and money, not because of the songs they sang, but because it was the custom to do

so. And custom, among superstitious peoples, is sacred. They were afraid that evil would befall them if they did not make gifts to the singers who caroled Christ's praise.

From actual records we know that gift making to children goes far back into prehistory. At various museums here and abroad there are on view dolls, animals, and other toys which have been taken out of the long buried tombs of children.

We can easily picture a savage father of long ago bringing a curious shell for his child to play with. We can see a savage mother carefully fashioning a flint or bone toy that her child might have something with which to busy himself. Among these primitive peoples, marriage was not considered binding until a child was born. The birth of the child therefore must have been an occasion of great celebration, and perhaps all the clansmen presented gifts to the newcomer. It would have been a ceremony—to show the child he was welcome and among friends.

Painted clay dolls, some in the form of humans and some in the form of animals, were given to early Egyptian children as playthings. Among the early Romans, the man who adopted a child gave it rich gifts to prove that he was able to take care of it.

Gifts have always accompanied christenings. In the Middle Ages the godparents usually presented the child with gold or silver spoons. It is barely possible that the phrase, "born with a silver spoon in his mouth," may have come from this custom.

The custom of presenting children with gifts at Christmas time was most pronounced among the Germans in early life. Kris Kringle is their name for Santa Claus. It is derived from Krist Kindl, which means Christ child. We can understand why the holiday would have been recognized as being particularly a child's festival.

Saint Nicholas, or Santa Claus, is regarded as the patron saint of Christmas. The old nursery myth is that he comes down the chimney with a pack on his back to leave gifts for good children.

It is possible that this myth originated with the custom of cleaning the chimney at the beginning of the new year to enable good luck to enter the household. A housewife, busy cleaning the chimney at or about Christmas time, might have whispered to her children, to keep them out of mischief, that if they were good Santa Claus would come down the chimney and bring gifts to them. Impressed, the children hurried to spread the news among their playmates, and so we have the myth today.

an electric bulb between two stars six or eight inches across, cut from white tissue paper, and sewing them together with an edging of tinsel rope. Either place the tree under a light fixture and use a short drop cord or run an extension cord over a ceiling hook placed above the tree.

Let such a star shine welcome from the big wreath in door or window. On the door extension cord should run to the hinged side and through screw hooks to the point from which it drops to the wreath.—Frances Grinstead.

Gay Christmas Lights and How to Make Them

MUCH of Christmas cheer comes from glowing lights that throw mystery over familiar things. Replace your usual electric light shades with Christmas ones of heavy rose-colored paper brushed with linseed oil to make it transparent. No frame is necessary if they flare widely and fit close at the top of the light bulbs. Finish them with poinsettia beads or sew green paper rope along

the edges. Wreaths cut from green cardboard, a few red berries painted among the leaves, make unique covers for bare droplights. Use two wreaths, placing one on each side of the light and fasten edges together with paper clips or paste together after inserting light bulb. Paste rose or yellow tissue paper over the cut-out wreath centers or crush tissue paper over the light bulb and snap a rubber band around the neck.

A beautiful star to hang above the Christmas tree is made by enclosing

RATTLING AUTOS HIT BY LEADERS

Dilapidated, High-Power Junkers Denounced.

Collegiate flivvers and their rattling equivalents under any other name may have just the right amount of verve to suit some branches of the younger generation, but they have too little braking capacity to strike the fancy of traffic officials, motor-club leaders and others in many parts of the country. The same goes for a class of automobiles that has been described as "high-powered, dilapidated junkers," which right now are coming in for some sharp denunciation.

The latest to enter the arena against this type of car and car owners is the Motor Club of Indiana.

Disdain Smaller Cars.
"A certain class of motorists disdain smaller cars, whether new or old, and buy machines that once were high-priced and elegant," says Mr. Stoops. "Such cars, even in a dilapidated condition, still have plenty of power as long as they will run."

"Tinkering mechanics will go to junk yards and pick out an old automobile which may be bought for \$25 up to about \$200. All the purchaser wants is for the machine to go. It is immaterial to him if the automobile is about to fall to pieces. He seemingly does not care for his own safety or the safety of others. Maybe the car has no brakes, but the purchaser of automobile junk is not particular."

"It is hard to determine which is the greater menace to safety—the pile of rusty automobile junk or the one who drives it—and some means to rid the country of this risk should be devised."

"Compulsory insurance would not help. It would probably increase the number of junkers on the streets and make the careless driver more careless."

"The type of driver who leans to high-powers would probably enjoy a vacation in a hospital with all bills paid by some insurance company and the knowledge that his car would be paid for by the same insurance company. And the insuring of junkers would cause insurance rates to soar to prohibitive heights for the careful driver who keeps his car in good mechanical condition as a safety measure."

"Some law might be enacted requiring drivers of cars of a certain age to post a bond for the benefit of persons they might injure or property they might damage, or a law might be enacted making it unlawful to sell an automobile without first placing it in good mechanical condition. Such legislation would be constructive and a great aid in eliminating accidents."

Motor as a Road Market Is Big Boon to Farmers

The automobile is evolving another boon for the farmer—the roadside market. Its potentialities are so great that the farmers of New Jersey are creating a standard farmers' roadside association, with the support of the state department of agriculture.

Last year the state had 132 of these roadside stands, and the income from them was estimated at \$305,000.

The system already has proved that it has great possibilities and gives promise of solving the vexed problem of bringing the products of the farmer directly to the table of the city consumer, fresh and free of the middlemen's toll.

The system is also winning distinct success in Maryland, where last year 100 roadside stands did a business of \$257,000, and other states are rapidly taking it up.

The New Jersey association will be under the regulation of the bureau of markets of the state department of agriculture and will attempt to form a direct contact between the farmer and the consumer.

Accidents at Crossings

Fifty accidents on public crossings during the first three months of 1923 were reported to the state highway commission by railroads operating in Wisconsin. These accidents resulted in the death of 14 persons and injuries to 23 persons. Automobiles were involved in 37 of the accidents and in these eleven persons were killed and 19 injured.

Traffic Chief Annoyed by Many Sloppy Drivers

All Milwaukee traffic policemen have been instructed to be on the alert for what the traffic bureau describes as "sloppy drivers." A "sloppy driver," according to the bureau, is the type of driver who cares nothing at all for the other fellow's rights.

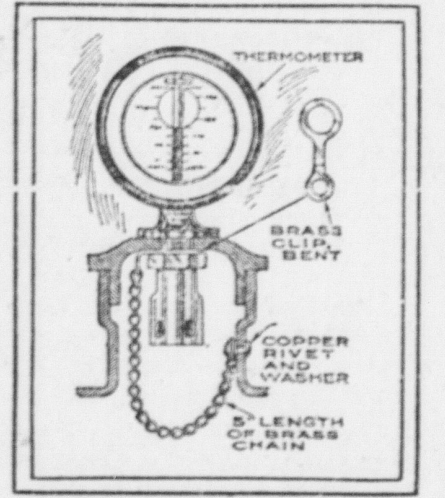
He will make left turns from the right side of his half of the street and right turns from the left side, without a thought for the motorist who happens to be following him. If the man behind is speeding up to pass at the time the "sloppy driver" is making a left turn in his celebrated fashion, an accident involving injury and possibly death is almost sure to occur.

Another manner in which this type of driver makes life miserable for his fellow men is by hogging the road, says the bureau.

"I have noticed many drivers straddle the right rail of the car tracks," said Capt. Albert J. Murray. "This ties up both lanes of traffic." Everything possible has been tried in an effort to educate a motorist in better driving, and Captain Murray states that it is time to take action which will force them to drive according to the rules of the road.

Locking Radiator Caps Thwarts Petty Thieves

Radiator caps of automobiles that are fitted with thermometers for registering the temperature of the cooling system, and for giving warning of overheating, are expensive enough to attract the attention of the "doormat" type of thief. A simple protective measure consists in attaching a short length of light brass chain to the instrument and the radiator-filler tube.



Radiator Cap Locked. In such a way that the cap can be unscrewed for filling the radiator, but cannot be dropped or carried away. A brass clip is cut to the form shown and screwed underneath the nut that holds the thermometer to the radiator cap. One end of the chain is fastened to this clip, and the other is riveted to the neck of the radiator. While it is possible to cut the chain with a pair of wire-cutting pliers, the thief, finding the cap secured, will more than likely seek easier booty.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

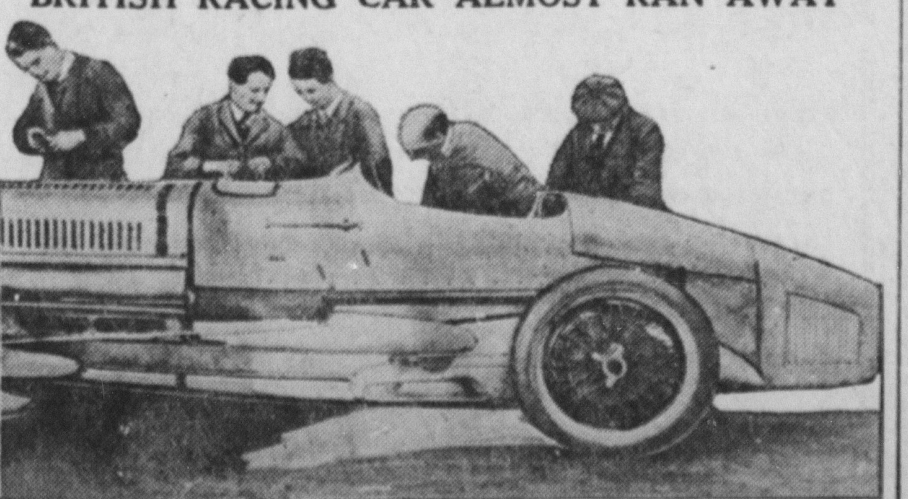
Balloons on Car Tracks Just Right for Skidding

Drivers of cars with balloon tires should be particularly careful when turning in and out of car tracks. Many of the balloon tire sizes now being used are not immune to a rail skid. When balloons were first introduced it was the rule to demonstrate them with the larger sizes and with lower pressures than are advisable for economical service. The larger sizes will not catch in car tracks, even if the latter are in rather bad condition. The same may be said of some of the smaller sizes when underinflated. The best policy is to drive one's car in accordance with the sizes of the tires used and the pressures carried, rather than on a basis of past performances with other sizes underinflated.

Bushings for Bearings

On most makes of cars the bushings for bearings are made of anti-friction metal. The advantage of using soft metals is that if the bearing became too tight no injury would be done to the shaft around which the bushing was fitted, the bushing taking all the wear. Another reason is that if there were several high spots on the bushing surface, causing increasing heat at those points, the bushing would not be so apt to seize, but would yield, producing a more even surface.

BRITISH RACING CAR ALMOST RAN AWAY



The photograph shows a British racer, built in secrecy, which almost ran away from Maj. H. O. Segrave, when the feeding gear control parted with the carburetor, while going about 154 miles per hour. He averted an accident by going at that pace for nearly a mile before he could stop it by cutting off the ignition. This photograph shows the racer, christened "Hush, Hush, No. 1," because it was built in such great secrecy, which is expected to break the world's speed records.

Sure Relief

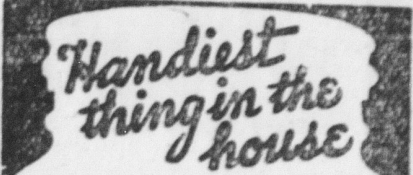


Stop Coughing

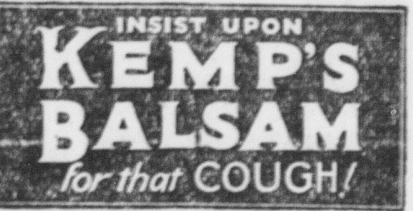
The more you cough the worse you feel, and the more inflamed your throat and lungs become. Give them a chance to heal.

Boschee's Syrup

has been giving relief for sixty years. Try it. 30c and 90c bottles. At all druggists. If you cannot get it, write to G. G. Green, Inc., Woodbury, N. J.



Chesebrough Mfg. Company State St. (Incorporated) New York



Sure of That

Joe Poppitous and Sam Aedophilous got into a philosophical argument in the rear room of the former's restaurant.

"I'll tell you what we'll do," suggested Joe, when it became evident that they couldn't settle the matter. "We'll call up Socrates and accept whatever he says. Do you agree?"

"Fair enough," agreed Sam. "Go ahead and call him up."

"What is his number?"

"I don't know exactly, but he's the Hemlock exchange."

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Warning! Unless you see the name "Bayer" on package or on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Aspirin proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians for 26 years. Say "Bayer" when you buy Aspirin. Imitations may prove dangerous.—Adv.

One Way

Teacher (questioning class after lesson on preservation of food)—Mary, tell me one way of preserving meat.
Mary—Putting it on ice, teacher.
Teacher—What do we call that?
Bright Girl of Class—Isolation, teacher.

Constipation generally indicates disordered stomach, liver and bowels. Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills restore regularity without griping. 272 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

Easy One

"What's the greatest question of the age?" "How to get a new car on the old income."

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The exclusive menthol blend soothes dry, irritated, inflamed throats like magic. 5c

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